

CLAIMS

1-27 (Cancelled)

28. (New) An apparatus for monitoring the operations of an operator of a machine that performs a medical function, comprising:

a computer having a memory,

said memory including a standard protocol of operations that an operator should perform when using said machine to perform said medical function,

apparatus for receiving, and entering into said memory, the operations of the operator of said machine during the use of the machine to perform said medical function,

said computer including a program for comparing said standard protocol with said operations that were entered by said apparatus.

29. (New) Apparatus as defined in claim 28, in which said computer has an output which sets forth prices computed from the operations performed by said machine.

30. (New) Apparatus as defined in claim 28, in which said computer provides information on procedures performed by said machine.

31. (New) Apparatus as defined in claim 28, wherein there are a plurality of machines each of which performs a medical function and in which said computer compares an actual operation of each said machine with a standard procedure and determines any difference between said standard procedure and said actual operation.

32. (New) Apparatus as defined in claim 31, in which there are plural computers, including at least one computer for each machine.

33. (New) The method of monitoring the operations of an operator of a

medical machine which gathers medical information about a patient, comprising:
providing a computer with a memory,
providing said memory with a standard protocol for operating said machine to perform a medical function,
entering into said memory the operations of said operator in operating said machine,
providing comparisons by said computer which compare said standard protocol and said operations of said operator.

34. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, in which said computer computes prices useful for billing purposes from the operations of said machine.

35. (New) The method defined in claim 33, in which there are a plurality of machines each of which performs a medical function,
providing plural operators for operating said machines,
providing computer comparisons of said standard protocol with the operations of each operator.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 in which the step of providing a computer provides at least one computer for each machine.

37. (New) The method as defined in claim 35, in which said computer provides information on procedures performed on each of said machines as well as summaries of the operations of all of said machines.

38. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, in which said computer compares an actual operation of each machine with a standard procedure and determines any difference or similarity between said standard procedure and said actual operation.

39. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein prices useful for billing purposes

are computed based on the operations of said operator.

40. (New) Apparatus as defined in claim 28, in which said machine takes a picture of a part of a body.

41. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said performance of a medical function comprises taking a picture of a part of a body.

42. (New) The apparatus for monitoring the operations of an operator as defined in claim 28, wherein the "apparatus for receiving and entering into said memory" comprises a device that enters the operations of said operator into said memory before said medical function is completely performed.

43. (New) The apparatus for monitoring the operations of an operator as defined in claim 42 in which each operation of the operator is entered into said memory before the next operation takes place.

44. (New) The method defined in claim 33, in which said operations of the operator are entered into said memory before said machine gathers said medical information.

45. (New) The method defined in claim 44, in which each entry into the computer for one operation of the operator is made before the next operation of the operator takes place.

46. (New) The method of monitoring the work of an operator of a medical machine comprising:

providing a medical machine which requires an operator to make plural operations in order for such machine to produce desired results,

providing a computer with a memory,

entering into said memory data which represents operations of said operator in operating said machine with each such entry occurring prior to the next operation

of said machine undertaken by said operator, and
comparing said entries into said memory with a standard protocol.